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(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

14 October 1975

1007

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MEMORANDUM FOR DR. HALL, ASD(I)

SUBJECT: Committee for Civil Applications of Classified Photography of the United States

You asked for recommendations for a response to the memorandum which established the subject committee. As you know, the committee is to be a formal replacement to the old ARGO Committee. The ARGO Committee provided a forum for educating the domestic agencies on the application of overhead photography for domestic use. The new committee essentially formalizes the requirements mechanism and the exploitation of KH photography on the behalf of the civil agencies.

Although the new committee will have little effect on the actual operation of the photo reconnaissance satellites, I believe that you should make the following points clear in a response to the memorandum.

- The present overhead systems are film limited and as such there will be a scarcity of film available for domestic photography. Certain engineering operations over the Continental United States are driven by [redacted] which may or may not be amenable to the satisfaction of a specific geographic requirement of the Civil Applications Committee.

- We consider that the technical aspects of the satellite reconnaissance systems require continued security protection and that the establishment of this committee should not alter present security ground rules. Proper utilization of the KH photography obtained for civilian uses should preclude the necessity for alteration of present security.

- Furthermore, increased visibility of the satellite reconnaissance program within the civilian agencies should not serve as a vehicle for official acknowledgement of the "fact of"

a satellite reconnaissance program. Guidance to the committee should reflect the concerns of the Defense Department and others about the protection of this vital asset.

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